**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **

**USA Darley Champions honored at the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Flat Racing Festival Darley Awards**

***Ooltewah, TN*** */ USA - March 12, 2012 ~* The Board of Stewards of the Arabian Racing Cup is proud to announce the 2011 Darley Champions, crowned at the 25th Silver Anniversary of the Darley Awards. The Darley Awards, held annually, were founded in 1987 to honor the best in Arabian horse racing. This distinguished ceremony recognizes the most outstanding racehorses, jockeys, owners, trainers and breeders of the Arabian horse racing community in the USA.

This year´s 2012 ceremony, named in honor of our sponsor as the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Flat Racing Festival Darley Awards, was held March 4, 2012 at the JW Marriott in Houston, Texas. Dignitaries and guests from the USA and around the globe including Arabian race enthusiasts from Canada, Mexico, Australia, England, France, Sweden, The Netherlands, Turkey, Oman, Qatar, and UAE were present to witness this prestigious event. Chosen from 5 nominees in each category, these individuals were crowned the “Darley Champions of 2011 in the USA”:

DARLEY CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR

TM FRED TEXAS

DARLEY CHAMPION 3 YEAR OLD COLT OR GELDING

Born To Boogie MC

DARLEY CHAMPION 3 YEAR OLD FILLY

Golden Odessy

DARLEY CHAMPION 4 YEAR OLD COLT OR GELDING

T M Fred Texas

DARLEY CHAMPION 4 YEAR OLD FILLY

Sanddpiper

DARLEY CHAMPION OLDER HORSE

Grilla

DARLEY CHAMPION OLDER MARE

TM Super Bird

DARLEY CHAMPION BREEDER

Todd Moak

-more-

*Page 2, ARC Darley Awards News Release*

DARLEY CHAMPION OWNER

Sam Vasquez

DARLEY CHAMPION TRAINER

Ron Martino

DARLEY CHAMPION JOCKEY

RICARDO SANTANA

Adding to the excitement and importance of the evening were six newly instilled awards, Her Highness Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley Awards, named in honor of her generous sponsorship and dedication to women’s issues in the UAE and globally. These special Darley Awards recognize the woman breeder, owner, trainer, and jockey who most distinguished themselves in Arabian racing during 2011, as well as an award to honor the Mare of the Year. A special Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to the woman who made significant contributions to Arabian racing over her lifetime. Voted on by an international panel of judges, the honorees are:

HH Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley

BEST BREEDER

Dianne Waldron, USA

HH Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley

BEST OWNER

Margreet de Ruiter-Floor, The Netherlands

HH Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley

BEST JOCKEY

Azhar Bint Saif Al Wardi, Oman

HH Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley

BEST TRAINER

Gill Duffield, Great Britain

HH Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley

BEST MARE

Dixies Valentine

HH Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley

BEST LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Maureen Milburn, Australia

Mr. Omar Al Shamshi, Deputy Chief of Mission at the UAE Embassy in Washington, D.C. welcomed the gathering on behalf of the United Arab Emirates, and was on stage to present many of the awards. The glittering ceremony was capped by the ARC´s Annual Stallion Auction Fundraiser, headed by Patrick Buckley representing Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club, and Bill Smith, a noted trainer and UK Hall of Fame Steeplechase Jockey.

-more-

*Page 3, ARC Darley Awards News Release*

Arabian Racing Cup, owner of the Darley Awards program, was chartered in 1983, founded by Dr. Sam Harrison and governed by a Board of Stewards. The Cup is dedicated to the promotion of Arabian Racing by expanding public awareness and creating prestigious programs to highlight the Arabian racing industry.

Contact:

Arabian Racing Cup

Dr. Kinsman Wright, Chief Steward

Email: darleys@arabianracingcup.com

Tel: 405-445-5561

[www.arabianracingcup.com](http://www.arabianracingcup.com)

###

(577 words)